

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAB-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01  
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15  
NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 DHA-02 AID-05  
ACDA-07 /066 W

-----106777 192045Z /70

O 191956Z AUG 77  
FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3268  
INFO PANCANAL IMMEDIATE  
USCINCSO IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PBOR, PN  
SUBJECT: THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY MEETING ON TREATY

1. TORRIJOS CLOSED A THREE-AND-A-HALF-HOUR MORNING SESSION OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES WITH A BRIEF SPEECH OF SUPPORT FOR THE DRAFT TREATY. THE SESSION WILL CONTINUE THIS AFTERNOON.

2. TORRIJOS REFERRED TO THE AGREEMENT ON A NEW TREATY AS A "TRIUMPH" OF WHICH HE IS PROUD. HE SAID THE TREATY WILL PROVIDE FOR "RAPID DECOLONIZATION" OF THE CANAL ZONE. HE ALSO REFERRED TO THE OFTEN-STATED PANAMANIAN POSITION THAT THIS GOVERNMENT HAS CHOSEN TO NEGOTIATE TO RESOLVE THE CANAL PROBLEM, IN PREFERENCE TO SHORTER, BLOODIER MEANS. TORRIJOS PRAISED PRESIDENT CARTER FOR COURAGE TO TELL THE TRUTH TO THE AMERICAN PUBLIC. HE CALLED FOR A FULL AND OPEN DISCUSSION OF THE DRAFT OF THE TREATY IN PANAMA. HE SAID THAT "CRITICISM OF THE TREATY WOULD NOT BE CONSIDERED CRITICISM OF THE GOVERNMENT", BUT URGED THAT ALL CRITICISM BE RESPONSIBLE.

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3. PRIOR TO TORRIJOS' SPEECH, FOREIGN MINISTER GONZALEX REVILLA, AS WELL AS NEGOTIATORS ESCOBAR, ROYO, AHUMADA AND FABREGA SPOKE ON SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF THE COURSE OF SESSION. NO TREATY TEXTS WERE RELEASED, THOUGH A LANDS AND WATERS MAP WAS USED IN THE TELEVISED PRESENTATION. HOWEVER, ESCOBAR DID READ THE TEXT OF A PARAGRAPH

WHICH HE SAID WAS TREATY LANGUAGE ON THE SEA-LEVEL CANAL  
OPTION. A GENERAL FACT-SHEET, WHICH WE HAVE NOT YET SEEN,  
WAS RELEASED TO THE PUBLIC.

4. ESCOBAR DREW THE TOUGHEST TASK, EXPLAINING THE NEUTRALITY TREATY.  
HE WENT INTO ELABORATE DETAIL ON THE HISTORY OF THE NEGOTIATION  
OF THE TREATY, WHICH ENDED UP BEING COMPLETELY SATISFACTORY  
TO PANAMA.

5. THOUGH SOME OF THE SPEAKERS WERE DEFENSIVE AND ATTACKED  
DOMESTIC OPPOSITION TO THE TREATY, THE GENERAL TONE WAS UPBEAT.  
THE PANAMANIAN GOVERNMENT'S PUBLIC POSITION ON THE TREATY SINCE  
ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE HAD PREVIOUSLY BEEN  
VERY LOW KEY AND EVEN STRANGELY NEGATIVE. (IT IS A "PEBBLE" IN  
TORRIJOS' SHOE, ETC.)

6. ESCOBAR WAS THE MOST EMOTIONAL OF THE SPEAKERS,  
DELIVERING A STEMWINDER OF NATIONALISTIC RHETORIC.  
AT ONE POINT HE SAID THAT PANAMA WOULD TAKE A VIOLENT  
ROUTE IF THE U.S. SENATE SHOULD REJECT THE TREATY.  
THE PRESENTATION IN GENERAL SEEMED ACCURATE TO US  
THOUGH WE DETECTED A FEW ERRORS AND EXAGGERATIONS FOR  
POLITICAL EFFECT. IF THE AFTERNOON SESSION (BILLED AS  
A QUESTION-AND-ANSWER PERIOD) GOES WELL, THIS WILL  
HAVE BEEN FROM OUR VIEWPOINT, A PRETTY GOOD KICKOFF  
TO THE RATIFICATION CAMPAIGN.  
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JORDEN

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** CENTRAL LEGISLATURE, SPEECHES, CANALS  
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**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977PANAMA05966  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Litigation History:**  
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**Office:** ACTION ARA  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
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**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Retention:** 0  
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**Review Content Flags:**  
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**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
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**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY MEETING ON TREATY  
**TAGS:** PBOR, PN, (TORRIJOS HERRERA, OMAR)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/a9140358-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
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